

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~One or multi-layered~~ Multi-layered seamless tubular casing which is permeable to smoke, characterized in that at least one layer of the casing comprises a mixture of polyamide and natural fibres and optionally additives, wherein the sum of the layer thicknesses is between 5 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and the permeability of the casing to water vapour, in accordance with ASTM F1249-01 at a temperature of 23 °C and a relative atmospheric humidity of 85 %, is at least  $25 \text{ cm}^3/(\text{m}^2 \times \text{day} \times \text{bar})$ , wherein at least one layer of the casing comprises 30 - 99.9 wt.% of an aliphatic polyamide and/or copolyamide and/or a mixture of the same and/or (partly) aromatic PA and/or olefinic (co)polymer from the group consisting of EVA, EVOH, ionomer resin and/or (co)polyester and 0.1 - 70 wt.% of natural fibres, based on the total weight of the layer, the wt.% values of the polymer, additives and the natural fibres in each case adding up to 100 wt.% and wherein it is biaxially stretched.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one layer of the casing comprises a mixture of natural fibres and a mixture of aliphatic polyamide from the group consisting of PA6, PA11, PA12, PA66, PA6/66, PA6.8, PA6.9, PA6.10, PA6.11 and PA6.12, a copolymer from the monomer units contained therein or a mixture of the aliphatic polyamides mentioned.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that the natural fibres are cellulose fibres having a fibre length in the range of from 5 to 10,000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Previously Presented) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that the seamless tubular casing comprises at least 3 layers, wherein

- the inner layer comprises 30 to 100 wt.% of aliphatic polyamide from the group consisting of PA6, PA11, PA12, PA66, PA6/66, PA6.8, PA6.9, PA6.10, PA6.11

and PA6.12, a copolymer from the monomer units contained therein or a mixture of the aliphatic polyamides mentioned and 0 to 70 wt.% of cellulose fibres and optionally additives,

- the middle layer comprises 30 to 100 wt.% of aliphatic polyamide from the group consisting of PA6, PA11, PA12, PA66, PA6/66, PA6.8, PA6.9, PA6.10, PA6.11 and PA6.12, a copolymer from the monomer units contained therein or a mixture of the aliphatic polyamides mentioned and 0 to 70 wt.% of cellulose fibres and optionally additives and
- the outer layer comprises 30 to 100 wt.% of aliphatic polyamide from the group consisting of PA6, PA11, PA12, PA66, PA6/66, PA6.8, PA6.9, PA6.10, PA6.11 and PA6.12, a copolymer from the monomer units contained therein or a mixture of the aliphatic polyamides mentioned and 0 to 70 wt.% of cellulose fibres and optionally additives.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A wrapping for paste-like or liquid fillings which comprises the seamless tubular casing according to claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The wrapping as claimed in claim 9, wherein the paste-like filling is sausage meat.

11. (Previously Presented) The seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein the sum of the layer thicknesses is between 5 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Previously Presented) The seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein the sum of the layer thicknesses is between 20 and 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

13. (Previously Presented) The seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein the sum of the layer thicknesses is between 20 and 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

14. (Previously Presented) The seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein casing is biaxially stretched with an area stretching ratio of 4-10 and degree of reshinkage can be adjusted by the heat setting, a shrinkage at 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a water-bath of 0-30 %.

15. (Previously Presented) The seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein casing is biaxially stretched with an area stretching ratio of 6-10 and degree of reshinkage can be adjusted by the heat setting, a shrinkage at 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a water-bath of 10-20 %.